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General and complete disarmament

Letter dated 5 October 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Mongolia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I have the honour to forward herewith the Chairman's statement at the conclusion of the meeting of focal points of nuclear-weapon-free zones and Mongolia, which was held on 27 and 28 April 2009 in Ulaanbaatar (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 96.

(*Signed*) Enkhtsetseg **Ochir**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 5 October 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Mongolia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

Chairman's statement at the conclusion of the meeting of focal points of nuclear-weapon-free zones and Mongolia

A meeting of focal points of nuclear-weapon-free zones of Latin America and the Caribbean (Tlatelolco Treaty), the South Pacific (Rarotonga Treaty), South-East Asia (Bangkok Treaty) and Central Asia, as well as of Mongolia, was held on 27 and 28 April 2009 in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. It discussed the issues of implementation of the Tlatelolco declaration of 2005 as well as preparations for the follow-up Conference of States Parties and Signatories to Treaties that Establish Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones and Mongolia and for the 2010 NPT Review Conference. Following the consideration of those issues, the Chairman is making the following statement:

1. We reaffirm the validity of the Declaration of the first Conference of States Parties and Signatories to Treaties that Establish Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones (NWFZs), adopted on 28 April 2005 in Mexico.

2. We reaffirm that the existence of nuclear weapons and the possibility of their use constitute a threat to the entire humankind and that their use would have catastrophic consequences for it. Hence nuclear disarmament, total prohibition and the eventual elimination of nuclear weapons remain urgent tasks facing humankind. We support the United Nations Secretary-General's five-point proposal to revitalize the international disarmament agenda, which includes a call for negotiations on effective measures leading to nuclear disarmament.

3. We welcome the positive signs that are emerging to reduce further nuclear arsenals as well as the recent "surge" in various ideas and proposals to address the pending issues of nuclear disarmament and the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons as imperatives that humankind is facing today. These positive developments and trends taken together create a positive climate to pursue further the goals of a world free of nuclear weapons and of nuclear non-proliferation.

4. We recognize the importance of multilateralism and in particular the notable role played by the United Nations in the area of nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation, and we reiterate our commitment to adopting measures to strengthen that role.

5. We reaffirm that the Non-Proliferation Treaty remains an essential instrument of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation and reiterate the validity of the principles, obligations and rights contained therein, in particular in articles III, IV, VI and VII.

6. We are convinced that the establishment of internationally recognized NWFZs on the basis of agreements entered into freely among the States of the zone concerned promotes the goals of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. Respect for such zones by nuclear-weapon and neighbouring States constitute an important nuclear disarmament commitment.

7. We reiterate our concern that though almost a decade has passed since the 2000 NPT Review Conference, uneven progress has been marked in implementing the agreed nuclear disarmament measures. Therefore we urge all States to comply with the obligations set forth in article VI of the NPT and elaborated further in the decisions of the Review Conference mentioned above.

8. We urge nuclear-weapon States to continue taking steps towards concluding an unconditional and legally binding universal treaty on security assurances for non-nuclear-weapon States and to honour their commitments regarding security assurances until the treaty is concluded.

9. We welcome the entry into force of the Central Asian NWFZ Treaty on 21 March 2009, the first such zone in the northern hemisphere and covering an area where nuclear weapons were previously based. With more rigorous safeguards provisions, it will make an effective contribution to strengthening regional and global peace and security.

10. We are looking forward to the entry into force of the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty, which would mark an important measure towards attaining the objective of global non-proliferation.

11. We urge nuclear-weapon States and any other States listed or mentioned in the relevant protocols to the treaties establishing NWFZs that have not yet signed or ratified the protocols to do so as soon as possible, and those that have made reservations or unilateral interpretations to modify or withdraw them.

12. We express full support for Mongolia's policy of institutionalizing its nuclear-weapon-free status. We welcome the start of the talks by Mongolia with its two neighbours to conclude the required legal instrument and express the hope that it will soon result in the conclusion of an international instrument institutionalizing the status.

13. We reiterate our support for the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in the Middle East as well as North-East Asia, South Asia and Central Europe.

14. We reaffirm the importance of achieving the universality of the NPT and urge those States that are not parties thereto to accede to the Treaty without delay or conditions as non-nuclear-weapon States.

15. We reaffirm the commitments reflected in the NWFZ treaties to further promote and strengthen the zones and to cooperate in promoting ratifications, where appropriate, by all States that belong to an NWFZ as a contribution to strengthening confidence, the NPT regime and achieving nuclear disarmament.